

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
/059 W

-----068622 120243Z /15

R 100920Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9766  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1137

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: PINT, PBER, PLO, CE

SUBJ: PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE IN COLOMBO  
MEETS WITH SRI LANKAN FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: COLOMBO 787

1. AN EMBASSY SOURCE HAS REPORTED THAT THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) REPRESENTATIVE IN COLOMBO, MOHAMED ADNAN SALIH ABD AL A'DL STATED IN AN EARLY MARCH 1978 CONVERSATION THAT HE HAD MET WITH THE GSL MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, A.C.S. HAMEED ON 2 MARCH 1978. A'DL LEARNED FROM HAMEED THAT THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN COLOMBO HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PUBLICATION OF AN ARTICLE IN THE "SUN" NEWSPAPER EDITION OF 27 FEBRUARY 1978 WHICH ATTACKED A'DL'S ATTENDANCE AND SPEECH AT A POLITICAL RALLY HELD BY LOCAL OPPOSITION RADICAL GROUP, JANTHA VIMUKTHI PERAMUNA (JVP), WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNSUCCESSFUL 1971 SRI LANKA INSURRECTION.

2. A'DL STATED THAT HAMEED REQUESTED HIM NOT TO ATTACK EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT BECAUSE "ACCORDING TO PROTOCOL", ONE DIPLOMAT  
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CANNOT ATTACK OR CRITICIZE ANOTHER DIPLOMAT OR COUNTRY THAT HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA." A'DL RESPONDED THAT IT IS THE STANDING POLICY OF THE PLO TO ATTACK AND CONDEMN PLO ENEMIES. HAMEED ASKED A'DL WHY HE HAD ADDRESSED THE JVP RALLY AND WAS TOLD "I WILL JOIN ANY GROUP WHICH SUPPORTS THE PLO." ACCORDING TO A'DL, HAMEED RESPONDED THAT HE IS 100 PERCENT FOR THE PLO."

3. A'DL TOLD HAMEED HE KNEW HIS SPEECH HAD BEEN TAPE RECORDED AND HAMEED COULD REPLAY IT TO HEAR PRECISELY WHAT HE HAD SAID AT THE MEETING. HAMEED RESPONDED BY SHOWING A'DL A "BULKY FILE REFERRING TO HIS ACTIVITIES." A'DL TOLD HAMEED HE DID NOT CARE WHAT WAS IN THE FILE, HE IS HERE TO DO A "JOB ON BEHALF OF THE PLO." HAMEED REPLIED THAT HE "KNOWS A'DL IS A YOUNG MAN", BUT HE SHOULD NOT ATTACK PRESIDENT SADAT OR EGYPT BECAUSE EGYPT HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA AND IT IS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO PREVENT ATTACKS ON FOREIGN MISSIONS IN SRI LANKA.

4. PRIOR TO DEPARTING, A'DL STATED HE ASKED HAMEED IF HE WOULD PRESIDE AT A "PLO MEETING." ACCORDING TO A'DL, HAMEED RESPONDED HE WOULD DO SO.

5. COMMENT: THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD US THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT PLO REP A'DL WAS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE FROM HIS HEADQUARTERS TO DEMONSTRATE RESULTS FOR THE PLO ANTI-SADAT CAMPAIGN. EGYPTIANS FELT THAT AD'L'S APPEARANCE AT JVP RALLY COULD LEAD TO HIS EXPULSION, SINCE GSL SENSITIVE ABOUT ANY FOREIGN CONNECTION WITH FORMER INSURGENT GROUP. APPARENTLY FOREIGN MINISTER HAMEED, WHO IS A MUSLIM, DOES NOT WANT TO OFFEND ANY ARAB GROUP IN SUPPORT OF SRI LANKA'S PRINCIPAL FOREIGN POLICY GOAL OF MAXIMIZING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGN AID. THOUGH NOT EXPELLED, A'DL HAS DONE LITTLE TO WIN ADHERENTS

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TO PLO POSITION AGAINST SADAT AMONG GENERALLY DISINTERESTED SRI LANKANS, INCLUDING LOCAL MUSLIM MINORITY, EIGHT PERCENT OF SRI LANKA'S 14 MILLION POPULATION.

WRIGGINS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, POLITICAL LEADERS, LIBERATION FRONTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
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**Subject:** PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE IN COLOMBO MEETS WITH SRI LANKAN FOREIGN MINISTER  
**TAGS:** PINT, PBOR, PGOV, CE, PLO, (AL-A'DL, MOHAMED ADNAN SALIH ABD)  
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